

FILED

JAN 18 2013

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

JEFFREY S. CHIESA
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law - 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for New Jersey Board of Nursing

By: Barbara J.K. Lopez
Deputy Attorney General
973-648-7454

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
CELESTE A. NWANNA, RN	:	
License # 26NR11795400	:	INTERIM CONSENT ORDER
	:	OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN	:	OF LICENSE
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which revealed that Celeste A. Nwanna, RN ("Respondent") was arrested on or about November 29, 2012 and charged with Abandonment/Neglect of Elderly Person/Disabled Adult. It is alleged that Respondent, while on duty as a nurse at a group home on October 20, 2012, improperly medicated a disabled adult resident causing extreme drowsiness, lethargy, and other medical issues which required a trip to the emergency room. It is further alleged that Respondent was

unavailable and failed to render care to the resident after the improper medication. When Respondent did make herself available after the ambulance arrived, it is alleged that she failed to assess the patient and maintained that the resident did not require medical intervention at the hospital. Lastly, it is alleged that Respondent falsified the medical record.

A review of Respondent's history reveals that a Consent Order was filed on February 2, 2007 reprimanding Respondent for professional misconduct. According to the 2007 Consent Order, Respondent had made entries in a patient's medical record which indicated results of blood sugar monitoring although Respondent had not actually taken blood sugar readings of the patient.

The allegations surrounding Respondent's recent arrest, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in another instance of professional misconduct within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). Additionally, the allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in, or was convicted of, acts constituting a crime or offense involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the practice of nursing according to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).

It appearing that Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into an interim agreement without making admissions and without prejudice to her ability to defend any action brought based on

the above allegations, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare; and other good cause having been shown;

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS 18th DAY OF January, ²⁰¹³~~2012~~,
ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent hereby voluntarily surrenders her license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey pending disposition of the criminal charges and until further Order of the Board. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, forward her nursing license, both wallet and wall versions, to Barbara J.K. Lopez, DAG, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07101, on behalf of the Board of Nursing.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding herself out as a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and shall refrain from the practice of nursing in the State of New Jersey pending further Order of the Board.

3. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of Respondent.

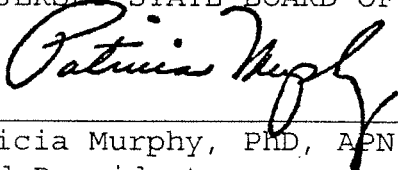
4. The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statutes or regulations governing nursing practice in the State of New Jersey or any other violations of

law, by the Board, the Attorney General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, any pending matters under investigation.

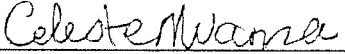
6. Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from initiating further disciplinary action based upon the conduct relating to Respondent as alleged above.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

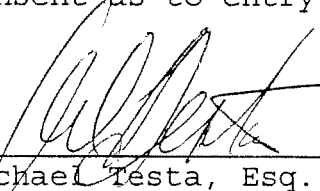
By: _____


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President

I have read and understand the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I consent to the entry of this Order.


Celeste Nwanna, RN
License # 26NR11795400

Consent as to entry and form.


Michael Testa, Esq.
Attorney for Celeste Nwanna, RN